

District Court *Pro Se* Assistance Program

If you do not have an attorney and you have filed a case, are considering filing a case, or have been sued in a case in the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the District Court's *Pro Se* Assistance Program might be able to help you. The program is staffed by attorneys from the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, in cooperation with the District Court and the Clerk of the District Court, with special funding from the Chicago Bar Foundation. You can make an appointment to see a Program attorney. The attorney is available to provide you with free limited legal assistance during your scheduled appointment.

If your case belongs in the District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the *Pro Se* Assistance Program attorney *can*:

- Assist you by providing information about federal court procedure and the law as it applies to the facts as you describe them;
- Assist you in preparing certain of your own pleadings, motions, or other court documents;
- Assist you in accessing other sources of information about your legal issues; or
- Refer you, in appropriate cases, to other providers of civil legal services or to social service agencies.

The *Pro Se* Assistance Program attorney *will not*:

- Appear on your behalf in court;
- Research or write court documents for you;
- Conduct any investigation into the facts of your case; or
- Negotiate with your opponent or your opponent's attorney.

The *Pro Se* Assistance Program attorney may decline to assist you after interviewing you if:

- The attorney already has given advice to your opponent;
- Your legal problem is beyond the scope of the Program; or
- In the attorney's view, giving advice would conflict with any provision of the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct.

Any personal information that you provide to the attorney is confidential, unless you agree to its disclosure in writing.

The *Pro Se* Assistance Program operates *by appointment and in-person only*. Appointments are made at the Clerk's Office Intake Desk, Dirksen Building, 219 S. Dearborn, 20th floor, or by calling (312) 435-5691.